an integral part of Indian Union and a part of its territory is under illegal occupation by Pakistan.

Talibans being diverted to India by ISI

3061. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI is diverting and directing Talibans towards India (Jammu and Kashmir State) for their safe hideouts and Jehad; and

(b) what special steps the Ministry is contemplating to stop such type of cross border terrorism, effectively and vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The possibility of diversion of some Taliban cadres towards Jammu and Kashmir at the behest of Pakistan cannot be ruled out. Appropriate measures have been taken to address the threat of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. These include a multi-pronged proactive approach to effectively counter infiltration and also to conduct synergised counter proxy war operations in the hinterland. Extensive operations are launched to dominate the areas of operations with the specific task of targetting foreign terrorists. As a result of these measure, 1793 terrorists have been eliminated during the current year (1.1.2001 to 10.12.2001).

Role of Territorial Army in Combating insurgency in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir

3062. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how is the Territorial Army helping in counter-insurgency operations in the North-East and in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of units of Territorial Army deployed in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the Strength of the Territorial Army in view of disturbed law and order and insurgency problems?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Territorial Army units have been deployed on the counter-terrorism grid primarily for relieving regular army units from static security duties. Nine

Infantry Battalions of Territorial Army are deployed in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) While it is not proposed, at this stage, to increase the overall strength of the Territorial Army, certain step regarding restructuring of the organization have been initiated.

Purchase of ALH by Indian Armed Forces

3063. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Armed Forces plan to buy 300 Attack Helicopters (ALH) from HAL to meet their requirement;

(b) if so, whether these helicopters have been designed to meet the specific requirements of the three services; and

(c) if so, what is the timeframe for their induction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Indian Armed Forces plan to buy Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) from HAL and not Attack Helicopter as mentioned in the question. These are designed to meet the specific requirement of the Armed Forces. It is not in the national security interest to disclose further details.

Venkatswami Commission

3064. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed the Venkatswami Commission to prove the issue arising out of the Tehelka Tapes;

(b) if so, whether the terms of reference of the Commission also allows it to give its observation on the responsibility of the then Defence Minister for the use of his official Bungalow for negotiations between Tehelka reporters posing as arms dealers and his top party officials; and

(c) whether the Statement by the Prime Minister that the Commission has not been able to collet evidence against the then Defence Minister amount to making the possible observations of the Commission redundant?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached. (*see* below)

(c) No, Sir.